NBC NIGHTY NEWS 9 /11- 1ST ANNIVERSARY REPORTS - SEPTEMBER 2002

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From September 2002, NBC Nightly News Reports on the first anniversary of the 9/11 attacks

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americans have grown accustomed to the images of the massive cleanup at ground zero in lower manhattan but not far from the city suburb upon suburb finds itself picking up the pieces of its own community here's nbc's rehama ellis middletown has long been celebrated for manicured lawns and tree-lined streets but now it's become famous for what it's lost 36 residents victims of september 11th this church alone lost more parishioners than the whole town lost in world war ii and vietnam combined karen kangelos's husband stephen was a bond trader at cantor fitzgerald she says he was also everyone's friend the kids in the neighborhood when you know used to knock on the door and say can mr angelo could come out and play like so many others he was a family man who worked in the city commuting is a way of life in the small town of 68 thousand one out of every 20 households has someone who leaves here to work in new york city in the months following september 11th all those who never made it back home had a profound impact not only on their immediate families but on this town as well this is a big volunteer town and many of the 36 victims we lost were very involved in our activities middletown police sergeant joseph capriati has had to notify the families as their loved ones remains have been found when i drive past someone's house i know that they live there i know that i know that there's a widow there a widow were there or children without a father or a mother there even in middletown where people know their neighbors the outpouring exceeded expectations over the year residents raised almost a million dollars in cash and for unusual gift baskets we'd get dance lessons for free and lawn services for free snow plowing services all these types of extras maureen fitzsimmons has been coordinating counseling groups for the 21 widows left behind the healing to take place it calls for

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the healing to take place it calls for that collective group to come together and enable that process to happen a process for coping with dozens of neighbors gone this one town so much smaller than a year ago and learning how to live with loss rehema ellis nbc news middletown new jersey collectively prepares for september 11th one year later americans are now dealing with a very different world and an uncertain future nbc's virginia chad joins us now from ground zero in new york with that story virginia john in less than three days here at ground zero america will remember americans looking back but also looking ahead taking stock in how we as a nation are coping one year later by the thousands they come from every corner of america to the very place where terror forced this country to change in fact a new nbc wall street journal poll shows only four percent of americans surveyed think things are back to normal while 67 percent believe there is still a long way to go or that things will never return to normal i don't think we'll ever forget pollster peter hart says there's more than one reason why most americans feel jittery about the future they basically are concerned about iraq they're concerned about the economy and they're concerned about terrorism all of those things make the country uncertain today but what seems certain to most americans is another terror strike 82 percent of americans believe another major terrorist attack is somewhat or very likely in the next few months

we are a great country and the people who would like to see a great country fall are going to attack us again and yet despite that belief the vast majority of americans 76 percent say they don't worry about the threat of terrorism affecting them or their family

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terrorism affecting them or their family we have lives and we need to continue and move on and i think america has done that a country whose spirit has transformed for the better according to 70 percent of americans who say the changes this country has undergone in the past year are more good than bad base they say on an overwhelming feeling that despite the tragic loss america is now more united more alert more patriotic i think it's strengthened our faith i think we feel more self-assured in our country that we were able to go through this you know and lose so many and still stand up and say we're here and we're not going anywhere as a sign of that unity a solemn ceremony wednesday morning will honor the thousands lost here but not forgotten john nbc's virginia chad ground zero virginia thanks across the country americans are trying to find ways to properly express their feelings about 9 11. tonight the story of one man's personal tribute to those who died on the four hijacked airplanes here's nbc's norah o'donnell see how the flag shines when the sun hits it on an airport tarmac a proud and patriotic salute pilots wave and passengers press their noses to the windows to catch a glimpse of one man's solemn memorial i'm used to the people with the yellow cones guiding the plane in and all of a sudden here's an american flag flying up in the sky with the wind blowing behind it and it really just kind of knocked my socks off american airlines baggage handler jim carlton works the plane just outside gate 26 at dulles international airport the same gate where flight 77 departed from on september 11th heard the 77 it hit the pentagon and i knew that was our playing jim lost friends that day and struggled to find a way anyway to

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and struggled to find a way anyway to help all of a sudden it came to my head that i had this old flag back in the closet at home a little voice said get that flag out and you will fly for everybody on that airplane and it's faded it's got a few holes in it but i felt like at that moment that my country was pretty faded also so just days after september 11th when the plane got up close by just started waving the flag back and forth like this and i saw the people clapping and everything it was great carmen valani often piloted flight 77 and still does what he's doing out there is a real fine tribute so it's just it makes me just feel really good every time i see it one man's tribute to each victim aboard the four hijacked planes 246 good proud americans he keeps a careful tally in pen row after row filling the flagpole's wood shaft one day for each person i have american on this side and a united on this side 19 more still to be honored a goal that will be finished not long after september 11th i'll take as long as it takes each person will have their one day of honor and when he is done i will have to say goodbye to 246 friends that i've been honoring and yeah you have to move on and that will be my moment that i will have to set it down nor o'donnell nbc news dulles virginia in depth tonight as americans get ready for saturation coverage of the september 11th anniversary the question on many people's minds how much is too much here's nbc's brian williams in depth susan ferruggio lost a husband september 11th and the last thing she wants to see is that day replayed on television i

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is that day replayed on television i don't need television to remind me that my husband was killed on september 11. she says she thought she was recovering well until the blanket coverage back on the six-month anniversary set her back six months since the attack on america it brought me back to the second of that day when i had similarly had the tv on in the morning and saw what was going on there and it's not a nice place to go she's afraid of being forced to go back to that awful day and that's because september 11th is everywhere it is virtually impossible to leave your home without seeing reminders in books magazines newspapers even in popular music then of course there's television where we know the images will be non-stop not just the broadcast networks not just the 24-hour cable networks but places with names like home and garden country music television the food network all of them planning remembrances of their own

[Music] even the newly minted winner of the american idol talent show is scheduled to sing the national anthem at the lincoln memorial in washington an event some say brings over-the-top commercial access to a very somber anniversary we can't overdo things and at that point the real significance might be lost it becomes an event that goes beyond what it actually was september 11. this is how that day unfolded but there are two sides to september 11th some see good in it they see the return of all the images of that day as a way to remember what was lost on that day jenna jacobs lost her husband too and now has a son who will never know his father i kind of wanted to be in people's faces so they never forget my husband and all those people it's hard to watch the images sometimes there are certainly times when i have to shut the tv off but i wouldn't have it any other way

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but i wouldn't have it any other way this is a huge educational opportunity and it's it's not the amount and intensity of the coverage it's how it's how the coverage is actually being constructed the experts say the media have a huge responsibility to avoid the gratuitous use of the more disturbing images most networks including nbc will use those pictures only sparingly if at all based on the theory that by now millions like susan ferruggio know the pictures and their impact by heart brian williams nbc news new york lessons of 9 11 just keep on coming even now a year after the attack personal lessons and others what we learned about air safety or the lack of it about the perils of high-rise buildings about search and rescue and great calamities what we learned about each other and about the meaning of life for one man those lessons took him back in a familiar direction nbc's roger o'neill tonight on a life of service one look one listen this vertical aspect's a challenge right and you know even without a uniform john blitz is all military and you're looking for uh victims and structural integrity army special forces specialty robots lieutenant colonel retired before 9 11 uh i had kind of figured that i had paid my dues as a military guy so i was uh i was getting ready to launch into the corporate world and make a buck but within hours of the first plane hitting the twin towers private citizen blitz had his uniform back on and by that night was at ground zero what blitz didn't know then is the profound effect this would have on him after 9 11 the 43 year old father of two teenage girls decided the corporate world with all its perks and big bucks would wait there was a new more important mission of service i just

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more important mission of service i just kind of saw the frailty of that argument i mean you're never done paying back kind of a higher calling type of thing blitz thinks his robots prove themselves inside the rubble pile of the trade center probing dozens of areas where neither man nor dog could search hundreds of feet down pinpointing the remains of at least seven people certainly the stuff that we brought to the world trade center was was effective enough he's formed a non-profit corporation and is now out soliciting funds to refine the robotic platforms he thinks rescue workers desperately need i would like to have in the back every fire truck a robotic platform what we want to do is increase their capacity to take the baby out of the rubble alive a man on a mission a mission of hope arising from the depths of despair of september 11th roger o'neill nbc news always be one of the primary markers in the lives of all who witness them in person or on television to be remembered like pearl harbor or john f kennedy's assassination or the shuttle challenger for youngsters it was especially traumatic for youngsters who lost a parent it was beyond that and as nbc's ann thompson reports tonight it has been a summer of healing in a setting normally reserved just for fun this is a story about a dream realized 47 kids from across the country at summer camp in upstate new york boating playing softball swimming what scott hazelhorn did as a kid he wanted to give to other children as an adult and he did he just didn't get to see it scott was a little guy with a heart from his head to his toes he loved life when you were with him you you felt it he made you feel good just 29 scott was

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he made you feel good just 29 scott was about to give up his high power job at counter fitzgerald in the world trade center to become a teacher september 11th ended that and many other dreams but not this one scott's girlfriend amy callahan along with his parents pulled off the near impossible opening camp hayes scott's

nickname in less than a year at camp kennybrook where he camped so many summers ago we heard there was a possibility they wanted to start a camp for children there was no other place to do it the landman family donated their camp and their 38 years of experience to give children who lost a mom or a dad and enter and uncle the chance to play with others who suffered the same loss they're not different here you know a lot of these kids are the only one in their school that lost someone or the only one in their town that lost someone here it makes them feel the same as everybody else instead of secret handshakes here it's the haze hug giving strength to children still fragile kyle morris lost his father i know scotty my dad worked with him and he was cool and he was funny and i liked him this is not a place to forget as if kyle or his mom lynn ever could we talk about my husband every day and about their dad every day and and i don't think you're not going to get away from that [Applause] but it was fun a lot of fun just like scott i don't want the book to close on his life and this is a way for him to be here forever alive in the memories of 47 children and hopefully many more campers to come ann thompson nbc news new york good evening the new york skyline one year later an open wound where the world trade center once stood and tonight the threat of stillmore terror is so great the us government has issued an extraordinary warning code orange the second highest level of terror alert

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second highest level of terror alert the first time that level has been activated it's believed the greatest dangers are overseas but president bush said today the pattern of threats are similar to what they were a year ago u.s embassies are shutting down as a precaution and american military forces are on a very high stage of alert we begin tonight with nbc pete williams at the justice department pete tom good evening u.s officials say a captured al qaeda operative has warned of plans for a series of attacks against u.s interests overseas but now the concern is there might be other plans yet to be discovered targeting sites here at home the homeland security director and other top officials first got word of the new intelligence last night as they attended a 9 11 memorial concert in washington a former senior al qaeda operative captured in southeast asia warned of multiple simultaneous attacks by terror cells possibly using car bombs a tip confirmed by abu zabeda another former bin laden lieutenant these cells have been accumulating explosives since approximately january of 2002 this year in preparation for these attacks yet another intelligent source warns of possible suicide attacks against u.s targets in the middle east though these reports are less specific u.s military forces in the mideast were immediately put on their highest threat condition short of war full battle dress weapons at the ready and u.s analysts also say low-level al-qaeda followers might use the anniversary of 911 to stage their own small strikes the most likely targets of al-qaeda attacks are the transportation and energy sectors and facilities or gatherings that would be recognized worldwide as symbols of american power or security the warning is also based on a study of the kind of intelligence traffic picked up just before last year's attacks threats that we have heard recently remind us of the pattern of threats we heard prior to september the

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threats we heard prior to september the 11th the state department responded immediately closing 14 embassies and consulates in malaysia cambodia vietnam pakistan tajikistan malawi bahrain the united arab emirates and indonesia the u.s ambassador in indonesia announced the closings there we know that the al-qaeda network is still far from defeated and we received another graphic example of that in just the past few hours while officials say there's no information of an attack on the u.s security measures are noticeably tighter here the vice president is again spending the night at a secure location away from washington and the defense secretary has ordered that anti-aircraft missile batteries around washington now be armed with live missiles including the shoulder-fired stingers officials worry that while there's no intelligence information about a potential attack here in the u.s there wasn't any warning of one before 9 11 either tom thanks very much nbc's pete williams tonight even before the government's unsettling warning today the approach of the anniversary did raise the level of anxiety in many quarters nbc's robert hager tonight on how today's code orange announcement hits the country federal officials urge americans to go on with life and not stay home or cancel travel but many aren't sure after today's announcement at an outdoor mall in los angeles sonia mitchell i'm planning on staying inside staying home at new york's penn station commuter john passarella

and as the train's driving along the rails and it's rocking you're wondering you know if something could happen visiting the washington monument luanne jennings and a friend i'm afraid i'm not going to hide it i'm afraid i didn't want to come officials reassure the public say the entire force of the nation's new air marshals will fly tomorrow the coast guard will increase patrols the government will tighten access around some of its buildings but they still suggest parents might have a plan to communicate with children if needed only the latest in a post-9 11

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if needed only the latest in a post-9 11 world now dominated by barriers and plastic identity cards security measures that now cost the us government and private businesses more than a hundred billion dollars a year a figure that's growing every day cameras peer down from buildings metal detectors almost as common as doorways arriving here at the meadowlands or at other events we file by police armed with menacing guns are patted down and questioned about what we're carrying no backpacks sir nothing at all nothing at all newspaper columnist ellen goodman how much will make you feel secure more but we don't know we have to think smart we can't just think quantity think smart about the future like researchers at the international biometric group developing fingerprint identifiers that can open doors so you can proceed devices that recognize your face or your voice please say your password after the tone my voice is my password my voice is my password thank you i recognized your voice a world of big brother like gadgetry that may be what it's coming to if alerts like today's continue to keep us a nation on edge robert hager nbc news washington panorama of the world's financial capital lower manhattan wall street over there in new york and from 1973 until one year ago tomorrow morning the view from here was of course dominated by the twin towers of the world trade center symbols of america's ingenuity and might that became targets for america's enemies tonight much more than that view has changed in jersey city a city that defines the phrase melting pot here's nbc's ann thompson on tina john's lesson plan today coping with 9 11. how many of you are kind of nervous just about tomorrow

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nervous just about tomorrow a year ago in another classroom at ps22 in jersey city they had front row seats to history we watched that whole thing happen suddenly tolerance became an important part of her sixth grade curriculum they were just very angry and very almost like jaded and wanted revenge and those kinds of things jersey city a melting pot of immigrants with a large arab american population tina john did not want her hispanic and african-american students to contribute to a cauldron of hate if the people responsible for this were african-american or hispanic do you think all of you guys should get harassed inside the classroom she quickly knocked down stereotypes outside the classroom now aware she could be stereotyped even though she's indian not arab for the first time in my life i thought it i felt a little like maybe i should be careful tina john and others in jersey city spent this year conquering not just the fear of terror but also prejudice concerned the events that so drastically changed manhattan skyline also changed the way they are perceived for fatima muhammad there was no question people didn't even know me they were judging me by just my religion the way i looked the hijab covering her head in ancient times protection from harassment last september 11th a target for harassment everybody was just staring and yelling at us and you know cursing the muslim teen avoided going out her high school senior year now in college she says she no longer feels the constant sting of prejudice i can go out as much as i want now and not worry about anything tina john's worries have eased too i'm actually very hopeful and i'm hoping that i can rub off on the kids looking forward but always mindful of history ann thompson nbc news jersey city a year ago tomorrow the man you're about to meet now was burned over 38 of his body in the september 11th attack

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of his body in the september 11th attack on the pentagon but he survived and recently he returned to washington hospital center for a reunion with other burn survivors of that terrorist attack here he is 51 year old security manager john yates tonight in his own words when i uh arrived at the at the hospital center here

for my uh one-year checkup i had healed sufficiently that i don't have to wear my burn garments anymore this is by no means absolutely mature but it's matured enough that we can stop wearing the garments which i know is what you want that is a major milestone yes going through the rehabilitation is very difficult and it's very painful this is the toughest part the no pain no gain portion of it at some point i'll stop i'll be completely healed but the emotional and the psychological uh parts of it to deal with it will will be years i'm receiving counseling weekly uh and if i if i hadn't i don't know where i would be this is a very emotional time here this these laugh this last month i mean i had a nightmare last night for the fir for the very first time in a long time i dreamt that i watched over and over and over again the the the plane crashing into the building how are you well seeing juan and louise and tick and and dave and wayne and everybody else is just kevin is just absolutely wonderful we are trying to get our lives back in order we're getting there aren't we as a result of 9 11 and the days that followed the rest of the country came to understand an essential truth about new york it is so much more a collection of neighborhoods

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neighborhoods than one metropolitan mass and each neighborhood in and around the city has distinctive character tonight nbc's edie magnus in the borough of queens in one community where darkness took on a whole new meaning the rockaways a small strip of land that juts out into the atlantic off the southern tip of queens lovely towns with carefree names like breezy point and bell harbor i can't think of any other place where people are so close a place where life once seemed to stretch out like an endless summer sunset but not anymore the rockaways were hit hard by 9 11. these small communities which pride themselves on sending so many of their young people into either firefighting or finance lost nearly 100 of their own firefighters and civilians who were in the twin towers that day matt burke was one of three rockaway boys who worked at the training firm canter fitzgerald you said matt was the star of the show he was my role model from you know when i was a little little kid until now and he was the best he was my hero matt burke charlie heeran and pete mulligan had grown up together in the rockaways same churches schools and sports teams and were working their way toward becoming masters of their wall street universe from the trading offices on the 104th floor on one hand it was it was sad but on the other hand i was glad that those three guys were together and they were together that day for a community where bonds run deep and friendships are for life the loss was more than anyone here could bear and then they had to bear more when two months and one day after 9 11 the rockaways got hit again this time when american flight 587 fell from the skies moments after taking off from kennedy airport killing all on board and five on the ground he would have

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and five on the ground he would have been there if he were home definitely rosellan dowdell's husband kevin a lieutenant in the elite queens fire rescue unit number four would have helped fight that fire had he not died in the world trade center just eight weeks earlier it was my love and my friend was he proud of his sons oh he's very proud of them he taught them how to love and that it's okay to show you feelings and he always told them he loved them they'd found a piece of kevin's rescue gear within days of the twin towers collapse how many people did you save with just that one tool was taken into a lot of places helped a lot of people with it it would be all they would find in april when they said that they were not going to find him they were done digging and and there was nothing left we decided to have kevin's service rockaway would not let them mourn alone patrick dowdell honored his father with a solo on his beloved bagpipes like their dad patrick and james feel called to serve patrick is a west point cadet and after college james hopes to become a firefighter as for matt burke his family is raising money for a scholarship fund in his memory kevin is determined to make his big brother proud live every moment and not not whine and complain and just just you know just do it and that's what matt did when he was when he was here but they say it's been quiet in the rockaways these past few months the summer fun is now shaded with the memories of lives lost the sands here have shifted forever edie magnus nbc news the rockaways new york that's not the news for this season

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a nation changed and challenged from new york's ground zero to the pentagon to a field in pennsylvania across america and around the world a day to remember september 11th then and now where does the nation go from here [Music] america remembers this is a special edition of nbc nightly news with tom brokaw [Music] good evening in new york pennsylvania and at the pentagon this was a day that was at once emotionally exhausting but also uplifting a day in which the nation was drawn to the sites of the terrorist attacks one year ago by a common need to remember grieve and reflect on where we go from here this evening president and mrs bush were at ground zero in new york walking down the ramp into what many consider to be sacred ground the vast pit where the world trade centers once stood talking to family members one by one everyone's relief there have been no international terrorist incidents but the elevated state of readiness remains in place code orange activated when administration intelligence officials learned that there could be other attacks on the anniversary primarily against u.s interests overseas now here's nbc's roger o'neill from ground zero on the first anniversary of 9 11 and how it moved a nation roger tom good evening for the today they came to memorialize to honor and for the first time for the relatives a chance to touch ground zero all left a rose some took home a handful of sacred ground

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[Music] the bagpipers haunting sound amazing grace from new york's five boroughs converging on ground zero it was a peaceful september morning today but at 8 46 the same minute the first jet hit the world trade center a year ago just as the first moment of silence began suddenly the wind started blowing and there was turbulence again at ground zero as they did a year ago relatives clutched pictures of loved ones today not in search of but in honor of united in times history americans at three memorials stood silent today when time a year ago stood still 8 46 a.m 903 am new york 2801 dead 9 38 a.m washington 184 dead 1006 a.m shanksville pennsylvania 40 dead vincent a body in new york for two hours and 29 minutes from the first a joseph angelini senior david lawrence angel to the last z igor zukelman the names of those lost here echoed through the gaping crater of the world trade center as loved ones walked down the ramp to where the twin towers stood what stood out was their diversity a mirror of america's diversity today they were our neighbors our husbands our children our sisters our brothers and our wives

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our sisters our brothers and our wives they were our countrymen and our friends they were us at the pentagon and in pennsylvania i pledge allegiance [Applause] indivisible with liberty and justice for all which president bush promised today as he visited all three sites the murder of innocence cannot be explained only endured and though they died in tragedy they did not die in vain [Music] jane c folger often overshadowed by new york in washington today as 40 doves were released over the pennsylvania countryside honoring the passengers of flight 93 it was muriel borza 11 whose sister died here whose simple eloquence made all pause i have a wish that can fulfill in memory of those who perished on september 11th i asked for one minute of peace worldwide today september 11 thousand turns peace is what many relatives were looking for today at ground zero what began as an empty circle of honor became a ring of roses a centerpiece of remembrance and a place to save forever what was forever lost one year ago [Music] often forgotten as america tries to remember the thousands of people who were in these buildings who got out alive for them for all of the relatives today was an awful anniversary but they got through today and tomorrow will be tomorrow tom thanks very much nbc's roger o'neill tonight today's ceremonies were not confined

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today's ceremonies were not confined just to the attack sites this was not just about new york or washington or rural pennsylvania nbc's bob fallon tonight in utah on the national need to be a part of this day robert tom main street america was changed by 9 11 and even though in small towns like this one celina they have moved on what's going on today while the country remains on high alert that's conditioned orange it's the second highest level of terror alert and as you might expect nerves have been on edge all day with a series of false alarms involving airlines police and the fbi joining me now from washington nbc's justice department

correspondent pete williams pete a day of jitters tom federal agents tonight are watching a cargo ship bound for the port of new york and new jersey the ship carrying some cargo from the middle east was ordered back out to sea by the coast guard after sensors picked up unusual levels of radiation a federal team is on its way with more sensitive equipment as for law enforcement over the past year the justice department insists its actions have been constitutional and have not violated individual rights but federal judges are starting to say some steps go too far tarek albasti born in egypt and now a u.s citizen in indiana was arrested in mid-october when authorities discovered he took pilot lessons he was held for 10 days and his lawyer couldn't find out why i've never been told that i cannot discuss certain facts with my client particularly when it is based on those facts he was being held in jail many legal experts say such cases show that in balancing civil liberties and increased security the average american has not given much up what we have done for the most part is avoided that difficult choice and instead targeted immigrants and said we're willing to give up their rights their liberties for our security most of the 750 immigrants picked up in the search for terrorists have now been released

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released civil libertarians claim that shows the government rounded up the wrong people and arab american groups say the government's decision to handle the immigration cases in secret makes immigrants less likely to report suspicious behavior they're fearful of how that information will be used or how they might be targeted privacy advocates also question new rules that allow fbi agents to attend mosques and investigate whether suspects are checking out potential terror instruction books from public libraries civil libertarians say they're even more concerned about the government's decision to hold two americans as enemy combatants without first having to prove the cases in any kind of court on that theory anyone can be locked up on that theory i could be locked up you could be locked up um it requires no showing of any actual culpability or even suspicion but in defending the government's actions federal agents say september 11th put american law enforcement on a war footing making it urgent to round up people who might have terror connections while investigators sorted out who had actual ties to al qaeda and the attorney general insists that all those detained in the civilian system violated some rule or law he says the aggressive detentions are necessary to stop a determined enemy that's willing to use suicide attacks once you get into this contact context of people who are willing to die prosecution isn't the answer prevention has to be the answer as for secret hearings the government says small details that seem innocuous in any given case could add up to a mosaic of valuable information giving a road map of the government's counter-terror tactics so far the government has a mixed record in court on its terrorism strategy with some of these cases almost certainly bound for the supreme court in its term that starts this fall tom thanks very much nbc's pete williams tonight that brings us to america's growing arab and muslim communities for many

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arab and muslim communities for many this has been the year as one observer put it that the american dream for them descended into nightmares nbc's national correspondent is jim avila weeks after the september 11th terrorist attack arab american social service worker aita del shalabi heard a knock on her suburban chicago door it was the fbi someone had phoned in a tip and honestly about that i'm raising a terrorist for hamas the fbi was looking for a terrorist itadel is a widow and her sons in grammar school when the boy they wanted the question was summoned the agent's eyes widened he was eight years old shocked and amazed and i said you didn't know they're like no we thought he was older this is janine ahmad an american of palestinian descent born 42 years ago in suburban chicago now worried everything she learned as an american about justice and civil rights collapsed along with new york's twin towers all of a sudden this you know the regular constitution doesn't apply to muslims somehow by evening september 11 many of this country's 1200 mosques were suddenly targets of retaliation here where janine's family worships riot police were called in to protect muslims janine heard president bush tell america the attackers were not true followers of islam and right away she knew that peaceful american muslims needed to reinforce that message by connecting to the mainstream leave the cocoon as she calls it practicing islam in isolation her children in islamic school and tell her non-muslim neighbors of the innocence of her religion i felt like really

that islam was taken hostage with and hijacked along with with those planes thank you for bringing us together again janine found a receptive audience in a completely different culture the catholic church in an adjacent suburb five muslim women meeting monthly with five catholic women

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meeting monthly with five catholic women the first thing that they had said to us at dialogue was that the terrorists were not people that were following their islamic faith elaine rand says she had no muslim friends before 9 11. now she has five and new wisdom get to know a person always before judging them as a group to know what the islam religion is about and to accept muslim people lessons millions of innocent muslims pray their fellow americans learn before that next knock on the door jim avila nbc news chicago now to the war front where are we a year later in the war on terror and where is it going we go to nbc's jim klzhefsky at the pentagon just a short distance away from where that plane did so much damage a year ago today jim and tom those terrorist attacks right here at the pentagon and the world trade center not only changed america but may have forever changed the way the u.s military plans and fights a war the war in afghanistan has been about as unconventional as it gets american troops armed with high technology charging into battle on horseback it's the opening shot in america's war on terrorism where every fight will be different from the last the next battlefield wherever it happens to be is not going to look like afghanistan but where is the next battlefield sources tell nbc news the next likely target al-qaeda terrorists in yemen the uss coal was attacked there two years ago and it remains a hotbed for al qaeda today it's where osama bin laden has had a network of safe houses used as central switchboards to pass along orders for a number of terrorist operations including 911. nbc news has learned a small number of american special forces may already be in country 800 more troops standing by in the region to help the yemeni government go after al-qaeda cells and terrorist camps other potential targets span the globe

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other potential targets span the globe from somalia a lawless haven for terrorists to south america where there's a growing threat from islamic extremists in remote areas bordered by argentina brazil and uruguay wherever the fight american special forces will lead the way it was special forces bodyguards who killed the would-be assassins of afghan president hamid karzai last week we have the skills to do whatever needs to be done wherever it needs to be done even iraq nbc news has learned that american special forces have already been inside iraq scoping out potential airstrips for use in a possible u.s invasion american war planes would pound iraqi forces with high precision bombs but the decisive battles would likely be fought in the streets of baghdad it's unlikely that saddam hussein is going to want to fight out in the desert again he's seen what happened in desert storm that means special forces fighting street to street door to door an extremely high risk operation where the enemy has the advantage you're really talking about an urban jungle and just like guerrilla warfare in any other jungle it allows the enemy to get in very very close but before that there's still unfinished business in afghanistan where american troops continue the search for osama bin laden jim klazewski nbc news the pentagon as you might expect this country's airports were very quiet today and joining me now with more on how the air travel system is fairing nbc's robert hager at reagan national airport in washington robert quiet is right tom you can see from the empty ticket counter back there 3 000 flights canceled in advance and the rest going out less than half full all across the nation compared to a normal wednesday it means almost a million people chose not to fly today and with the system on edge there were incidents a northwest airlines flight from memphis to las vegas diverted to fort smith arkansas where four men were taken off for

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where four men were taken off for questioning turned out one had been shaving with a razor in the lavatory an american flight from houston to dallas returned after takeoff because someone thought a passenger had a knife it was really a calm and a russian cargo plane chartering u.s troops and missile equipment from europe to fort bliss texas was ordered to land early because of an incorrect flight plan and just look at the nearly

deserted terminals today from los angeles international to chicago's o'hare to newark new jersey travelers wary of trouble today but so far nothing serious it's been safe tom thanks very much nbc's robert hager tonight at reagan national airport in washington i'll be back with more of our special coverage america remembers but first a look at how the world remembered this day [Music] last [Music] ah [Music] todd beamer [Music] alan bevin mark bingham [Music] diora bodley

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diora bodley [Music] marion britain [Music] thomas e burnett jr [Music] there are some rays of light in a day that otherwise was so somber and sad tonight we revisit a woman whose story touched so many of you a year ago a woman who lost her husband at ground zero but after weeks of anguish a moment of pure joy nbc's ann thompson now with a family remembering and rebuilding to go forward first jackie gavigan had to go back to montauk take your shoes off to their special place on long island to the house her husband donald a bond trader counter fitzgerald bought after the birth of their twins hello jaclyn to where they spent their last week before september 11th i was always a strong person and i know that's why my husband married me so i i'm maybe i'm a little stronger now she never imagined then how strong she would have to be thank you to give birth to their third child six weeks after donald's death with just his picture to show son and i'm connor to tell you all about that and what a great guy he was to walk back into a hospital six months later now head of the donald gavigan jr fund to see its first beneficiary a six-year-old boy from kosovo undergo the same kind of surgery that saved their eldest son's life he's got a boo-boo like you did [Applause] to host a summer block party in their brooklyn neighborhood raising another 42 thousand dollars for donald's fun

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donald's fun so september is no longer the cruelest month as each september approaches i don't want to only have a vision of two falling towers instead i want my children and i to focus on the child we will save in memory of their wonderful daddy donald richard gavigan jr i used to hate microphones i used to never be able to speak on those things so what changed you i have no idea maybe my husband's coming through with me i don't know run now both mom and dad to lara donald iii and connor her most important job is raising their children i think it helps having children to stay focused and rebuild the life because my children deserve to be happy and there's one child in particular my blue eyed baby when he was born all america remembers well some stations will be leaving us now for most of you there is more of this special edition of nbc nightly news right after this

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